

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-03 MMO-04 ABF-01 SS-15 SP-02 SCA-01

/037 W

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R 091801Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9608

UNCLAS LA PAZ 1124

FOR ARA/MGT, ARA/BC, PER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AMGT, BL

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AMERICAN CONSULAR POSITION

REF: LA PAZ OM DATED JANUARY 30, 196

1. IN OM UNDER REFERENCE THE EMBASSY URGENTLY REQUESTED THE DEPARTMENT TO INCREASE THE AMERICAN POSITION CEILING BY ONE PROGRAM POSITION SO THAT SECOND FULL-TIME CONSULAR OFFICER COULD BE ASSIGNED TO THIS POST. I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF ARA/MGT WOULD UNDERTAKE TO HAVE THE DEPARTMENT TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION TO MEET THIS REQUEST.

2. IN EFFECT, LA PAZ HAS ONE CONSULAR OFFICER. HIS WORKLOAD HAS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY IN RECENT MONTHS. FOR EXAMPLE, IMMIGRANT VISAS INCREASED IN 1975 OVER 1974 BY 25 PERCENT; NONIMMIGRANT VISAS, 19 PERCENT; PASSPORTS ISSUED, 55 PERCENT; NOTARIAL SERVICES, 52 PERCENT; ARRESTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS, 54 PERCENT; AND THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS DETAINED IN JAILS, 67 PERCENT. IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY FOR THE CONSUL IN LA PAZ TO MAKE PERIODIC AND EMERGENCY VISITS TO INTERIOR CITIES FOR REGULAR CONSULAR WORK AND THE NEED TO INVESTIGATE DEATHS AND DETENTIONS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS. OBVIOUSLY, DURING HIS ABSENCES FROM LA PAZ A BACKLOG ACCUMULATES WITH THE CONSEQUENT LOSS OF SERVICES AND A DAMAGING OF PUBLIC RELATIONS.

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3. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE AMERICAN CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN INTER-

NATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING IS ON THE INCREASE. MEANTIME, IT IS CLEARLY EVIDENT THAT THE CAPABILITIES OF THE BOLIVIAN NARCOTICS OFFICE ARE RISING AND THEREFORE WE CAN EASILY PREDICT A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS ON DRUG CHARGES. WE NOTE, TOO, THAT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF AMERICANS DETAINED, THROUGH RELATIVES, FRIENDS, AND LAWYERS IN THE US, HAVE SOLICITED DEPARTMENTAL AND CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES INTO THEIR CASES. ACCORDINGLY, IN THE NEAR FUTURE WE CAN EXPECT AN INCREASING VOLUME OF SUCH CORRESPONDENCE RELATED TO THE RISING NUMBER OF CITIZENS APPREHENDED ON NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING CHARGES. IN ORDER FOR THIS POST TO MEET ITS STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS, AND TO UNDERTAKE THE DRAMATICALLY INCREASING WORKLOAD, IT IS VITAL THAT AN ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME CONSULAR POSITION BE ESTABLISHED.

4. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD INFORMALLY WHAT DIFFICULTIES THAT THE DEPARTMENT FACES IN OBTAINING ADDITIONAL POSITIONS AND THAT A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN CONSULAR POSITIONS HAS BEEN DEFERRED. IT IS MY HOPE AND REQUEST THAT THE ONE POSITION REQUESTED FOR LA PAZ CAN BE ACCOMMODATED BY THE DEPARTMENT. I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE PROMPT AND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO THIS REQUEST.  
STEDMAN

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